

RETURN

(102a)

The Honourable

The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Winnipeg, April 1, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, a certified copy of an Order in Council together with the report annexed thereto in reply to a report of a committee of the Honourable the Privy Council *re* the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba.

D. H. McMILLAN,
Lieutenant Governor.

To His Honour Sir Daniel Hunter McMillan, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, &c., &c.

REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council on matters referred to their consideration.

PRESENT:

The Honourable Mr. Roblin (in the chair); Mr. McFadden, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Agnew.

ON MATTERS OF STATE.

May it please Your Honour:

On the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council,

COMMITTEE ADVISE

That the annexed report, in reply to a report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, *re* the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba, be approved.

Respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN,
Chairman.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy.

(Sgd.) C. GRABURN,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Approved and ordered March 31, 1905.

(Sgd.) D. H. McMILLAN.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

March 31, 1905.

The Executive of the Government of Manitoba have had under consideration the reply of the Privy Council of Canada, bearing date March 21, 1905, to the memorial of the Government of the province of Manitoba, bearing date the 19th day of January, 1905, desire to reaffirm the position taken by them on behalf of the province of Manitoba, and to strongly protest against the delay in action now proposed by the said minute of Council, bearing date the 21st day of March, 1905, and object to the intervention of parties not concerned in the territory asked for.

The Executive of the government further observe that the territory westerly and northerly now asked for by the province of Manitoba is entirely comprised within the area acquired from the Imperial Government after the surrender of the Hudson's Bay Company's rights and did not form part of Old Canada, and we dispute the fairness or the right of any of the old provinces of Canada to have their territory added to therefrom at the expense of Manitoba or their rights of consultation as to its disposition.

The Government of Manitoba further observe that the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speech introducing the Bills to create the proposed provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, used the following language:—

‘But, Sir, there is another demand of the province of Manitoba which I think is entitled to fair consideration. Manitoba has asked to have her territory extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay; and this is a prayer which seems to me to be entitled to a fair hearing. But the province of Manitoba is not the only one whose territory could be extended towards Hudson's Bay. The province of Ontario would have the same right; the province of Quebec would also have that right; and the new province of Saskatchewan would have an equal right to have her territory extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay. Therefore in the project which we have to present to the House to-day, instead of including in the province of Saskatchewan that portion of territory lying north of Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba, we propose to leave that outside to be included, neither in Saskatchewan nor in Manitoba, but to be dealt with at a future day. And I may say at once that I have the authority of my colleagues to make the announcement that we propose to invite the province of Ontario, the province of Quebec, the province of Manitoba, and the province of Saskatchewan to meet us here to decide whether or not it is advisable that the limits of any of these provinces should be extended to the shores of Hudson's Bay, and if so, in what manner it should be done.’

The Government of Manitoba cannot accede to the statement that these provinces have any right to decide on the merits of the claim set up by the province of Manitoba, for the following, amongst other reasons:—The territory did not form part of Old Canada; Quebec and Ontario now border on that part of Hudson's Bay, called James Bay, and the proposed province of Saskatchewan is now being created largely out of territory which Manitoba has claimed since 1884, and which was withheld because Manitoba was then supposed to go easterly to the 90th meridian.

The province of Manitoba considers that there would be equally as much ground for this province being called into conference with the province of Quebec on the disposition of Ungava as for Quebec or Ontario being called into conference with us on the disposition of the territory now being asked for by the province of Manitoba.

The Executive further observe that in the year 1881, when Manitoba's boundaries were enlarged it was the fixed determination of the government of Canada to give to the province of Manitoba an area somewhat similar to the eastern provinces, approximately 150,000 square miles, the easterly boundary presumably being the 90th meridian.

And the Executive further observe that in the year 1882 the province of Manitoba further urged the extension of its boundaries, and at the time of the Minute of Council

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referred to, dated April 1, 1884, the eastern boundary of the province of Manitoba had not been determined, and Manitoba had not had its territory lessened by the boundary award, and in the opinion of the Executive, the minute, instead of affording justification to the now proposed action by the Dominion Government, constitutes in addition to the other strong claims advanced by Manitoba for extension, a strong argument for the immediate granting of the request of the province of Manitoba.

The province of Manitoba, through its people and government, have contributed largely to the development and advancement of the territory now asked for, and the settlement of people which has taken place has been with the full knowledge of the claims of Manitoba for extension of its territory, and the government cannot too strongly protest against the injustice being done in Manitoba in this respect and the inequality in territory is openly manifest to every one.

The disposition of the territory is a matter entirely within the competence of the government of Canada, who can determine the territory to be added, and we must respectfully press for the decision of the Government of Canada thereon.

The Government of Manitoba can see no good reason justifying the proposed conference, and reserves it itself and the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba all and every constitutional action, should the injustice and inequality be not speedily remedied.

The Government of Manitoba, in conclusion, exceedingly regret that, in their judgment, the circumstances compel them to use the strong and urgent language contained in this reply.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the report annexed to the original Order in Council, No. 9800 K.

C. GRABURN,
Clerk of the Executive Council of Manitoba.

